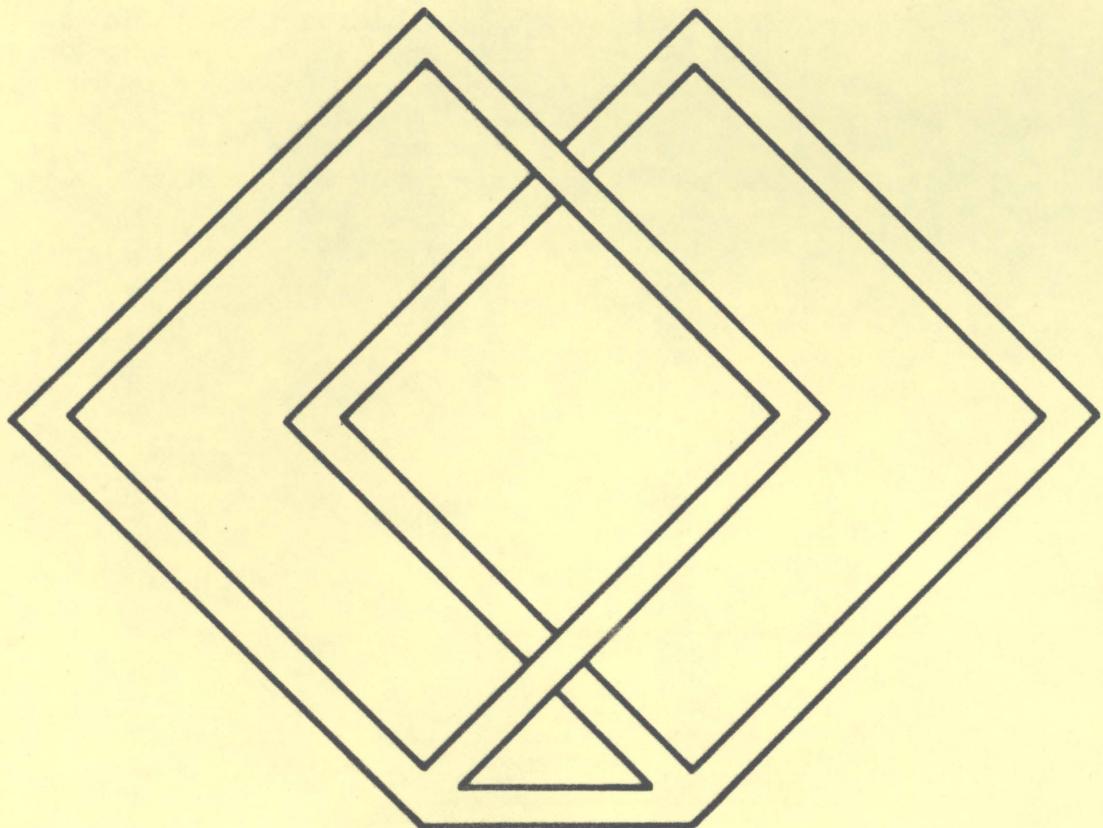


THE JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

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(Editorial - continued from page 1.)

Further, the knowledge that ETI (extraterrestrial intelligence) does exist, and in close proximity to Earth, would stimulate either attempts at diplomatic contact and a desire to join the galactic community, and/or global defence preparation with a fear of alien invasion. Either one would have the potential to unify all the peoples of Earth. It would also give mankind the comfort of knowing that it is possible for a technological community to overcome all the problems that technology brings, and survive to reach the stars.

First contact with an alien species would be bound to have several elements which would not sit well with some terrestrials. Perhaps THEY are horribly ugly, or so radiantly beautiful as to put us to shame. And what if they are atheists, or have a political system so ruthless that it makes Hitler look like a Boy Scout, or an economic system that runs counter to what we are accustomed to? What if they are black, or so warlike that they attack immediately upon discovery? Perhaps they might, in all innocence, introduce some deadly (to us) alien virus against which we have no defence. Perhaps it is no wonder we shudder at the thought that UFOs could be extraterrestrial. Far better that they be high altitude balloons.

UFOs, if extraterrestrial, might explain dozens of historical mysteries, and in doing so, undercut much of terrestrial archaeology. Or the introduction of alien scientific knowledge could undermine much of what we have been conditioned to believe is reality.

The potential damage or benefit to all of our terrestrial institutions, political, economic, social, educational, scientific, military, religious, and diplomatic ones alike, is staggering, if one could only show that UFO = ETH. No other UFO theory can make those claims to that degree. No other UFO theory therefore is worthy of our attention to the same degree; and no amount of wishful thinking-the-problem-away changes one jot what could be reality - like it or not.

No ufologist need feel ashamed for being interested in ETH.

May/June 1983

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Guest Editorial

by John Prytz

UFOs: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL CONNECTION

All UFO theories are equal, but some are more equal than others. Those are the ones which have potential significance out of all proportion to the space they take up on paper. A particular UFO could be either a high altitude balloon or an extraterrestrial ship. Two theories, same paper space, vastly different in terms of significance. Some UFO theories have so much potential significance in fact, that it can be more comforting to believe anything else in lieu of it. Better the devil that's only a bit nasty, than the one that will really upset the status quo. The extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH) is a case in point. ETH has more potentially unsettling significance per letter than any other UFO theory; so much so that, as Frank Gillespie pointed out in a UFORAN "Guest Editorial" (July/Aug. 1982), it "is the forbidden subject". Alas for the ufological ostrich, any similarity between wishful thinking and reality is often a matter of coincidence, and not to be relied upon.

Uncomfortable though it may be, a disproportionate amount of time and energy should be spent on the theoretical equation $\text{UFO} = \text{ETH}$, just because there is more at stake. High potential paydirt calls for high expenditure. What paydirt? What's at stake? Is ETH really significant out of all proportion to other UFO theories? What would be the effects if I happened to prove that $\text{UFO} = \text{ETH}$?

For starters, we would have THE ANSWER to "are we alone in the universe?"; an answer to what else is possible in terms of biology. Life would have been reduced from a miracle to a statistic. Man could never again say he was made in God's image. It would be the final step in a long series that have downgraded man's place in the universe. Man would be neither unique, nor the cent of creation. This would cramp mankind's style as Lord of all he surveys. The universe would not be just another toy like the Earth is. Divine right stops at the top of the atmosphere.

(continued inside front cover)

Criticism three: "Cities should report more than rural areas if the phenomena is produced by people...". Keith argues that "rural environments, dark country roads, isolated farms are the stuff dreams are made of." I got news for him, but city people have dreams too you know! With respect to this factor, it's going to be back over to Frank Gillespie again, and comments made to me in a letter dated 21 March 1982:

"The single most, effective argument against 'internal intelligence' is the spatial distribution of UFO sightings. Any 'internal' phenomenon must show some correlation to population density, particularly as the latter varies over a range of about 1 million to 1 in areas where UFO's have been reported. And it cannot be claimed that country people are 'different' to city dwellers, because 'city' people make 'country' reports in about the ratio of 'city' to 'country' people actually present in country areas. On the other hand, I have never been aware of a country visitor to the city who had a UFO experience while there. (This is something for the researcher to look into). Such things as mass media influence should also show an effect proportional to population density, modified by the media coverage pattern. In this case, since media coverage is much better in the cities, the proportion of city to country sightings should be even higher!"

I'd also wager that information about, and ingrown interest in, the subject of life in the universe, would be far higher in city populations, than rural areas. And that's the stimulus, isn't it? So, by all that's reasonable, and using Keith's own theories for the original stimulus, the cities should be a hive of imaginary UFO activity, and the rural areas, dullsville with respect to things extraterrestrial. But what about the isolated outback areas? By Keith's logic, that should be the hotbed to end all hotbeds of UFO activity - how isolated and relaxed can you get?

"Rural areas are just as relaxing (?) as outback areas, but outback reports go against population distribution. Rural car pacings are very common at night; and if anyone tries to tell me that night driving on country roads is relaxing, I'll know he's never tried it. There is also the point that pressure is known to produce more dreams (nightmares) than relaxation, and where does one live under the most pressure?" (Frank Gillespie - letter to the author - 19 April 1982.)

The fourth criticism addressed by Keith in defense of IIT was that "Day of the week cycles can't be explained by IIT". It can't be explained by ETH either. It can be explained, as Keith points out, by the cycles imposed on modern man which have a weekly component. So, the entire space devoted to the topic was irrelevant; a red herring.

Another anti-IIT criticism that Keith addressed was that IIT cannot account for multiple witness reports, and points to "known psychological factors" which make a group report no better than an individual's report in dealing with ETH vs. IIT. The fly in that ointment is that UFO reports, of the hard-core, bona-fide nature, have contained a multiple yet independent witness component. Those reports, even if a minor fraction of the grand total, cannot be thrown onto the IIT scrapheap by a turn of phrase.

The next (sixth) criticism is that "There is too much international uniformity for the IIT to be right, crossing racial groups". It is here that Keith plays the role of an amateur Freud, introduces sex into the argument, and contradicts some earlier points. I'll counter though and say "okay, I'll buy the symbolic breast (discs) and penis (cigars - which

should really be a vertical rocket but never mind the finer details), so now what about the other common sexual symbols, like the buttocks, long shapely legs, and the vulva. I mean if we are going to introduce sex into the equation (as the universal linking factor that cuts across the division of mankind) lets not be selective about it, but go whole-hog and do it up right!" Frank's comment in his letter of the 19th of April 1982 sums up my feelings too with respect to Keith's sexual cure (or is it hangup) for ufological ills: "This is complete balderdash".

I'll repeat my premise that UFOs, if internally generated, should show some statistical variations, depending upon the culture, including geographical, racial, etc. factors, from which the statistics were collected. That they do not is evidence for ETH, not IIT. Keith's sexual theory would suggest that women would report cigars disproportionately, and men daylight discs. Neither is true, and anyway where does that leave the nocturnal lights?

The next failing of IIT which Keith answers is the realm of physical evidence, such as the motion pictures, radar returns, ground markings, etc. Of course since IIT cannot explain these, Keith has to debunk the physical evidence - and a not too good job is done of it either. We cannot feel much confidence in IIT when Keith's answers to physical evidence are couched in phrases like "there might be an alternative to ETH"; "Most physical trace cases..."; the "...event is probably explainable...", etc.

It only would take one case to prove ETH, and the use of such qualifiers above show that Keith isn't quite as confident of his anti-ETH stand as he would like us to believe. He's hedging his bets as the above quotes (my emphasis however) show. (Actually, as a careful reading of Keith's article will show, he frequently uses terms like "may in fact" and "perhaps", etc. which subconsciously shows the degree of confidence he must internally feel - if it's good enough for him to play amateur psychologist, it's good enough for me!)

The eighth IIT failure which Keith props up is the abduction case facet. "Surely the reports of abductions by alien kidnappers cannot be explained by IIT?" Keith argues that experiments have shown that typical abduction experiences can be psychological in origin, and cites in particular the abductions in the Tujunga Canyon Contacts (by A. Druffel & D.S. Rogo). Keith and I are not in 180 degree opposition here. I would suggest however that all abduction cases are not equal with respect to the validity of IIT. No amount of IIT will explain why Travis Walton wasn't found for five days following a UFO abduction. If his abduction was internally generated, and not a hoax, the intensive searches should have found him. And nobody has ever shown that it was a hoax case - at least to my satisfaction. Further, one nasty bit with respect to the abduction cases is nearly identical report experiences, by witnesses who were unrelated in time, genetics, or knowledge of each other's existence. I too can quote a source to back up (in this case pro-ETH's) point of view. I suggest interested people read not only Tujunga Canyon Contacts, but Budd Hopkins' Missing Time: A Documented Study of UFO Abductions (Marek, N.Y. - 1981) and decide the abduction matter for themselves with respect to IIT vs. ETH.

A ninth area is that of "physiological reactions". Here I would suggest that ETH and IIT are tied. Mental health and physiological health have been demonstrated to be closely connected. However, "nuts & bolts" extraterrestrial spacecraft, and "medicals" during UFO abductions, could also leave physical traces. One telling point may be that the Hopkins book, noted above, which details physical scars left after abduction events, which would not be caused by mental processes, and shows pictures of the same.

Criticism number ten is akin to number seven (physical traces and effects) and here Keith is faced with explaining how IIT can be reconciled with EM effects associated with UFOs. Keith suggests that if one can imagine a UFO, one can imagine that UFO having an EM effect upon

your automobile and automobile's engine. Logical! But what of multiple and independent EM cases at the same time and in the same area. That I suggest would break the IIT EM bank! I now refer Keith (and other interested parties) to Ronald D. Story's volume, UFO's and the Limits of Science (Morrow, N.Y. - 1981) to have a read of chapter 8 - p.155-159.

The next (11th) point is also a subdivision of physical traces - Angel Hair. Keith writes that "IIT doesn't have to explain this myth" and refers us to another paper of his. What I'd like to know is how on Earth Angel Hair got associated with UFOs if IIT in the first place. I mean this is not your expected routine manifestation of extraterrestrial technology - so why imagine it? No, Angel Hair is real. Angel Hair may not be ETH, but you're on the right track Keith - it darn well isn't IIT.

The final criticism of IIT which Keith addresses is that pre-1947 UFO reports are explainable by IIT, as both UFO reports and UFO reporters (and the minds associated with those reporters) can be documented prior to 1947. (How solid the evidence is, in particular prior to the 20th Century, is another question - at least the reports exist.) However, Keith's argument suggests that there was nothing special about 1947. Human minds ='s UFOs before 1947; human minds ='s UFOs after 1947. Where the problem is, is that there was something very very very special about 1947 (roughly speaking - some suggest 1944 or 1945 as THE SPECIAL YEAR). What was special was the massive by-the-numbers increase in UFO sightings. Now either something extraordinary happened to man's psychological and social environment that expressed itself as "little green men" and "flying saucers" after all was said and done, and there is no evidence that anything extraordinary did happen (that did, would or could result in 35+ years of abnormal human behaviour), or else advanced extraterrestrial beings did arrive, or step up their appearances, around the half-way point in this Century. The pre-1947 problem remains a major (if not the major) headache for the IIT advocates.

End of Keith's paper, except he now concludes that "IIT...theories stand up to the facts as well, if not better than the ETH". For obvious reasons, I cannot agree, and believe (suggest) that Keith should reflect on this a bit more. And, as Frank Gillespie wrote me, upon reading Keith's paper (19 April 1982), and commenting upon same...

"Well that disposes of Keith's effort."

Actually it probably isn't going to be quite that cut and dried, so I'll now make a few extra points relative to the IIT vs. ETH debate, some new, some to re-enforce the above. But, for the rest of this paper, off comes the kid-gloves - no more Mr. Nice Guy!

There are too many little nasty facets to the UFO picture which IIT can't really cope with, but real (as compared to imaginary) ETI could. Imaginary ETI (via IIT) can't explain, as noted above, Angel Hair. But there are other aspects of ufology equally as difficult to mentally invent in relation to expected extraterrestrial behaviour or technology. For example, what about the often (independently) reported "falling leaf motion" of UFOs - why that unexpected facet if UFOs are the product of the human mind? Imaginary alien spaceships should produce imaginary sorts of spaceship noises, in particular rocket noises or sonic booms - it's logical, but it rarely happens. And how could IIT ever account for Aimé Michel's "straight-line (orthoteny) mystery" or phenomena? "Nuts & bolts" can travel in straight lines; but can imaginary UFO sightings? And UFOs apart, there are mysteries in heaven and upon Earth which one could connect with ETI, but could never associate with IIT. For example, any takers on how come a Lunar Apollo 14 ALSEP station went dead, then spontaneously returned to life a few weeks later, working better than ever, and then went dead again?

"A mysterious death on the moon has been followed by an equally strange return to life. Scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's John-

son Space Center are baffled." ("Lunar instruments return from dead" - Science News, 28 Feb. 1976 - p.138.)

If imagery, etc. is viable, there should be total commonality, at least between WASP countries like the U.S. and Australia, with respect to various aspects of UFOs. That is, you wouldn't expect the U.S. to report nearly all discs, and Australia cigars. Yet there is a distinct difference between the two countries when it comes to UFO abduction cases. America has a well defined abduction history; Australia does not. The reason cuts deeper than just the relative numbers of our populations, as the ratios of our number of abduction cases do not equal (even roughly) the ratio of our respective populations. Australia should have a good dozen or so imaginary abduction cases - if abductions are the sole products of the human mind.

And speaking of imaginary abductions, it's all fine, well and good to implant the idea of an abduction in the head of a typical human being, ask for the imaginary details, then conclude that because a known imaginary abduction details parallel reported actual abduction details, in the here and now that is, that all abduction experiences are imaginary. But in the here and now, perhaps that isn't surprising. It would be impossible to find a pure, uncontaminated before-the-fact with some UFO knowledge, typical human being. It is a pity the control experiment (part and parcel to the scientific methodology) cannot be done. Implant the idea of an alien kidnapping, and record the imaginary details, but have the "victim" come from 1932, with 1932 ideas of extraterrestrial life, etc. and see how much parallel there would be. If Keith is right, the innate factors should show parallels between 1932 and 1982. I doubt that would happen however.

If IIT is viable, and the imagination is unlimited when it comes to spaceships and space travel, I want to see some references to actual UFOs that materialise and dematerialise, and blue in colour of course, and which just happen to have a remarkable resemblance to the old London Police telephone call box. I mean why not as such a concept is clearly within the bounds of human imagination as any follower of Doctor Who knows!

With IIT, what is expected is for the most part not reported; what is not expected has often been reported. What has, and has not been reported, can usually be reconciled with ETI after-the-fact (Monday morning "quater-backing") - not before-the-fact. That's a very telling observation!

If IIT is viable, the year (for imaginary UFOs=ETI fads) 1947 is not. The time wasn't ripe for such an invention. Any reader who doubts this should read my paper "Genesis of the modern UFO phenomena", published in Volume 4 Number 1 of the ACUFOS Journal.

If IIT, in particular imagery, is viable, UFOs should appear almost upon demand. I should be able to will myself to have a vividly real, but in reality an imaginary CE3K tonight. Alas, my track record in producing dreams upon demand is as close to nil as makes no odds. Actually, I have never had a personal "first person" dream experience involving UFOs or alien beings, etc., at least that I ever remembered. And that's despite the fact that nine nights out of ten I will have read in bed something to do with UFOs, exobiology, science fiction, space science and/or astronomy, before going to sleep. My mind is saturated with ETI and UFOs; Keith's mind is saturated with UFOs and science fiction. So where are our imaginary UFO experiences with an extraterrestrial flavor? We are both prime candidates for having a UFO experience - assuming IIT of course.

Even if we did have vivid UFO dreams, wouldn't we realise this (given that we recalled the dream/experience in the morning of course)? I can't speak for Keith of course, but I for one am fully aware of the imagery phenomena from personal experience (although in relations to a whole range of topics, excluding UFOs), but have never, ever, had any trouble coming to terms with what it was for what it was, and assumed that other normal people (UFO witnesses sort of people) would likewise be able to do the same and tell truth from fiction; reality from dreams/imagery. I have,

for example, experienced mild earthquakes (in Canberra) while asleep, been nearly woken up - not quite, but just enough to register that the bed was shaking a bit, gotten up the next morning 99.9% sure I had experienced a for-real earth tremor, and was not even a little bit surprised to have that confirmed within minutes of turning on the radio news broadcast. On the other hand, I have also experienced no surprise in being bitterly disappointed at 6am to discover that that beautiful blond woman, who had seemed so very real, wasn't really lying in bed with me! I mean I didn't rush off to work to report that some strange woman had broken into my flat and crawled into bed with me at 2am! I could have gone to the police - but then I think I know me well enough; have enough faith in my ability to know what actually did, or did not transpire during those never-never hours when imagery is prone to come to the fore.

However, just because an "event" happens around the awake-asleep, or asleep-awake interface (or any time inbetween), does not mean, of necessity that the "event" was caused by internal, mental, IIT sorts of processes. It does not follow; it is not even logical to leap to such conclusions. And with respect to UFOs - the phenomena is not confined to just the routine sleeping time periods when IIT is maximized. All aspects of the UFO phenomena have been reported during intervals of time when IIT is minimized.

A typical person sees multi-millions, even multi-billions of objects or items in a lifetime (other people, automobiles, lightning, buildings, etc.) and experiences (using the other senses) another multi-million or billion facets of life (sounds, tastes, motions, feelings, etc.). Any one of those, if commented on, would be accepted as reality. The total package of them, for the average John Doe, over an average lifetime, if detailed, won't raise an eyebrow. Yet, if the object, or the experience, is a UFO, it all of a sudden must be the product of the mind. This strikes me as phoney reasoning. I say that if average John Doe can be relied upon to relate the multi-billions of his life's experiences without any question, then a report that suggests an encounter with an alien race, or the sighting of an object which is said to be "nuts & bolts" should be, barring any evidence to the contrary, accepted (at least with high probability) as being true. And when you multiply that one report, and interpretation, by multi-thousands of reports, and identical interpretations, then you have got to sit up and take notice, confront the facts, and not hide in an IIT shell.

And the facts suggest strongly ETH as an extraordinarily likely contender in explaining the bulk of, the big picture of things ufological. That's even more the case now, than it was on or about 1950, when the UFOs=ETI equation first solidified. Since then, the academic concept of ETI, and interstellar space flight, has gone from strength to strength following the discoveries of interstellar organic molecules and the return credibility of the concept of panspermia by F. Hoyle and F.C.H. Crick (of DNA fame) et.al. for example, or after looking at the logical implications of the G.K. O'Neill space colony and space colonization proposals, or in noting that an increasing number of countries are putting hard-core dollars into SETI programs!

In contrast to these developments in the physical and biological sciences, furthered by some of the top experts, indeed household names by now (ie: C. Sagan), in their fields, we have Keith (and others), who are not qualified experts in psychology, physiology, and psychiatry (which uncritical readers never considered I'm sure), passing judgment on the reality of the experiences of others, and forming all-encompassing IIT explanations (to the tune of 90% anyway) based on the averages of such experiences.

At the very best, even for the experts, fields like sociology, psychology, and psychiatry are very "soft" sciences. I'm sure one could take all the sociologists, psychologists, and psychiatrists, line them up end-to-end, and they still wouldn't reach a uniform or consensus opinion - on anything! For example, with respect to psychiatrists, reflect upon the following:

"Numerous studies of diagnosis have shown that what passes as a science practiced by well-trained experts is actually an arbitrary exercise in judgment." (Leff, W.F. - "Mind: Misdiagnosis" - Omni, Sept. 1981 - p.24, 136.)

Where does that leave the credibility of laypersons - like Keith?

Further, there is not the slightest doubt in my mind, not even a little bit, that I could take 99 out of every 100 of Keith's IIT cases and reinterpret them in terms of ETI. The reverse is not the case - not with a high degree of credibility or likelihood anyway. For example, how would, or could, Keith treat the cases detailed in the recent book by Dr. Harley D. Rutledge, Project Identification: The First Scientific Field Study of UFO Phenomena (Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. - 1981)? To any reasonable person, IIT would be last on any list of possible explanations.

But why stop with those cases? I'll repeat an earlier challenge for Keith to apply his IIT beliefs to the thirty or so unexplained

UFO cases left over from the University of Colorado/Condon Study. Or, if those are in the "too hard" basket, any other neutral collection of hard core unidentifieds would do - say the "Ten 'best' cases" in R.D. Story's book UFOs and the Limits of Science (Morrow, N.Y. - 1981). According to Keith's beliefs, and my mathematics, nine of those cases can be disposed of quick-smart. That means any 2nd edition of Story's book will be reduced by 9 chapters and over 60 pages, a great savings in time and paper resources!

The number of critics of IIT is growing, and includes, in addition to myself, V.J. Ballester Olmos (ACUFOS Journal, Aug. 1980 - p.12-13) & F. Gillespie (ACUFOS Journal, May/June 1982 - p.10-11). Perhaps therefore, it might be a good point in time for Keith, et.al., while not embracing ETH of necessity, to...

- 1) Admit that IIT in general, and imagery in particular, can be accepted as being only a very minor factor in explaining what has to date remained hard-core, bona-fide UFO cases.
- 2) Or if not, then pit their wits against a neutral selection of such cases, as for example the Condon residue or Story's ten best.
- 3) And/or back up IIT claims with outside professional and expert opinions and/or endorsements.
- 4) And start producing hard core data and/or reasonable/logical speculations and theorising, not the sort of "gee whiz" stuff like it was bedtime therefore it was imagery, and other nonsense arguments of the sort presented before and disposed of here.

Keith's ideas, arguments, and articles have served a useful purpose in that debate has ensued; mental processes have been put into high gear. But without some further breakthroughs, perhaps of the nature suggested in 2, 3, and 4 above, the time has come to pass judgment, and move on to newer things.

One final (Scout's Honour) word on the ETH side of the debate, which has nothing to really do with the merits, or lack thereof of IIT.

Dear gentle readers, please do not counter attack my pro-ETH stand by relating to me the recent wave of papers containing the anti-ETI (non) arguments of Frank J. Tipler. The sum total of his argument centres around the following:

"I conclude that if intelligent extraterrestrial beings existed their probes would be here. Because they are not here, no such beings exist." (Tipler, F.J. - "We are alone in our galaxy" - New Scientist, 7 Oct. 1982 - p.33-35.)

He has never once, in any of his anti-ETI articles, even mentioned, farless considered, the UFO question as evidence against his pet theory

and anti-ETI crusade. He is a non-event, and not worthy of our time or consideration, no matter which side of any ETH and/or IIT equation you sit on. I say this now in anticipation of anti-ETI and/or pro-IIT rebuttals to this effort, which use him. Give him a miss!

Over to you Keith - the ball's in your court!

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INTERNAL INTELLIGENCE THEORIES VERSUS THE ETH: NOTE IN REPLY
by Keith Basterfield

John Prytz and I have been debating the subject of ETH versus IIT for some time now, and I feel that I have gone as far as I can in the debate on present evidence. Therefore, unless more data comes to hand, I propose to leave my contribution as it stands to date.

Surely, however, there must be other readers straining at the leash to enter the fray? Contributions would no doubt be welcomed by the Journal editor.

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UFOCON 7

Australian UFO Conference Number 7 was held in Hobart, Tasmania, from the 12th to the 14th of February this year. In terms of numbers attending, it was a very minor affair; but because of the even distribution of representatives from around Australia, it proved that 'small' does not necessarily equate with 'unsuccessful'. The matters discussed ranged from a code of ethics for UFO investigators, to ways and means of implementing home computer access to a central UFO information and processing file.

In answer to the question, "What has been achieved so far by UFO research?", it was agreed that most of the early UFO theories have been shown to be untenable; and that we are now in a much better position in respect to knowledge, experience and techniques, to make progress in testing the validity of the few remaining theories. For example, to test whether UFOs are associated with magnetic disturbances, modern technology has made possible the design of a small and inexpensive remote recording magnetic detector unit which could be deployed in large numbers, all of which could then be interrogated periodically with a single master unit.

We live in exciting times, with the super-exponential technology explosion showing no signs of abatement. The 'laws' of physics are undergoing such rapid change that they are rarely designated as 'Laws' any more. Perhaps the breakthrough in UFO research will come, not from a super UFO event, but from a super research tool provided by new knowledge or new technology. The delegates at UFOCON 7 were agreed that this time of low UFO activity is not a time for us to lose interest or to feel despair, but a time in which to explore new ways of utilising the vast mass of UFO data which we already have, and to prepare for the possible time when UFO reports become more frequent again.

Those who missed coming to UFOCON 7 should make every effort to attend UFOCON 8 (June or July 1984 in Alice Springs, Northern Territory), and UFOCON 9 (Summer 1985-6 in Melbourne, Victoria). Everybody who is interested in UFOs can make a significant contribution to conference discussions, and also benefit from the contact with others in the field. Cooperation is vital for the effective progress of UFO research, and these conferences represent the summit of the cooperative process. Be there!

TRANSCRIPTION FROM: THE NIREE CREED SHOW, AUSTRALIAN A.B.C. RADIO PROGRAMME, 2CN RADIO, CANBERRA, A.C.T., FRIDAY, 15.OCTOBER 1982: TRANSCRIBED BY: John Prytz.

"THE U.F.O. INCIDENT OVER NEW ZEALAND: INTERVIEW: QUENTIN FOGARTY"

Niree Creed (Compere): ...Quentin and his crew filmed a group of brightly coloured lights in the sky that night, and it raised a storm of controversy that will not die down. Now Quentin has released a book about the event, Let's Hope They're Friendly!* is the name of it. Quentin, will the book kill the story further do you think?

Quentin Fogarty: No, I think in fact it will probably just reopen all the old wounds and the story will go on, and on, and on. It is probably the most frustrating thing about this whole subject is that you're always left with a negative, an unidentified flying object, so I suppose the story will continue until one day maybe we find out exactly what these things are.

Creed: What happened on that night in 1978?

Fogarty: Well as you said we were there to do something on some earlier sightings, I was on board an aircraft with a television film crew and another journalist at one stage, and, we were on two legs of the journey, both about an hour each, and during the course of those two hours, we saw a number of extremely bright lights in the sky which were also at times picked up on radar, and of course we obtained quite a bit of movie footage of them, and that led to a scientific analysis and to the conclusion that what we had filmed was a genuine unidentified flying object, supposed to be, I believe, one of the world's first radar-visual-photographic UFO cases.

Creed: What did these lights do?

Fogarty: Initially when we saw them there was a row of lights, probably up to five or six or seven, I can't recall exactly, but in the direction of a town called Kaikoura, and they were sort of coming on and off like a row of incandescent bulbs being turned on and off that started as a very very small light source and then sort of blossomed up into this great ball of light, and at times they also were lighting up either the sea or clouds, I'm not really 100% sure at that sort of distance, we were quite a few miles away, but they appeared to be sort of beaming down and lighting up either the sea or the clouds; that was the first part of the sighting; then on the, for the remainder of that journey to Christchurch we continued to see bright balls of light, that's the only way you could really describe them, and then on the return leg from Christchurch back to the home base of the aircraft in Blenheim, just after we took off, there was this great bright light out to our right hand side, which stayed with us I think for about twelve minutes, and apparently paced the aircraft, and also (???) reflected on the seabed below, and, most of the film was obtained of this one object, and that was also picked up on the aircraft's own radar, and then for the final part of the journey again we saw numbers of these bright pulsating lights which we, were very similar to ones we'd seen at the very start. But it was the one on the flight out of Christchurch that has proved the most interesting.

Creed: What was your immediate reaction when you first saw them? Were you frightened?

Fogarty: My, my immediate reaction was one of excitement. I did become extremely frightened, but that followed a little later into the flight when we were informed by radar at Wellington that we had targets behind us that we couldn't see, and I admit that I was extremely frightened, in fact the title for the book comes from a commentary I was recording throughout this whole thing; when I said "let's hope they're friendly" I meant, I really meant that at the time.

Creed: I know that there has been a lot of theories about what those lights could have been. Has there ever been any satisfactory explanation?

Fogarty: No, all of them mundane explanations put forward by debunkers, skeptics, astronomers, and a few ratbags around the place. All fail on a number of important counts, you know, I mean, like people say it was Jupiter, it was Venus, and then, of course, that disregards the fact that it was on our aircraft radar at ten miles away, you can't really get the planets that close to aircraft, and so, every single theory put forth so far to explain it in a conventional way, has failed, and we are left with this sort of puzzling mystery, what were they? We know that they were extremely bright, I mean, and they behaved in ways that conventional lights sources are not known to behave, and, you know, there's been a total of twenty scientists in America who have looked at this case, examined the film, used computer analysis, and these are experts in physics,

FOGARTY (cont.): radar, optics, astronomy, and they all conclude that this light source, or these light sources, behaved in ways that manmade light sources don't behave, so you're left with this intriguing puzzle.

CREED: What, for what reason do they think they are not like manmade lights? And what did these lights do, and how did they move, that makes the scientists think this?

FOGARTY: Well the (???) brightness is one thing, it's prohibiting for just one light source, and you can't achieve that sort of brightness with a conventional light source, unless you start focusing it into a beam, and also you have to consider what on earth was a great manmade, if it was manmade, light source doing off the coast of New Zealand at that time in the morning, following an aircraft, up the coast, off to it's right hand side, and when we turned towards it it moves around a little bit further, and, it's the brightness of them, and the behaviour of the lights that has convinced the scientists that manmade light sources just don't do that sort of thing.

CREED: Have you or any other journalist followed up the story; gone back to New Zealand?

FOGARTY: I believe, I think, people have gone back to New Zealand at various times, but, there has been attempts to get back on board one of the Safe Air Argosey freighters to attempt to maybe to do another...New Zealand fighters have put forward the theory that what we filmed were, was a squid fishing boat, which was after they said first of all we'd filmed Venus, and then they found out that Venus hadn't risen, they said "ah ha, you filmed a squid fishing boat" that flies around about thirteen, fourteen thousand feet, but that theory is probably the strongest conventional theory that has been put forward, but again it does fail on a number of accounts. But there have been attempts to get back up in the aircraft to film squid fishing boats, actually fishing, to prove how different they are to the images that we have got on film, but Safe Air, a little bit like Channel Ten down here, have been a little bit hacked off with all the bad publicity and all the debunkings and all that sort of thing, so they're reluctant to allow anybody on board the aircraft for that purpose.

CREED: What about the film? I would think that would be fairly valuable (???) there.

FOGARTY: Yes I would think so as well, but languages I believe an (???) the Channel, I think again the, the number of reasons, one being that because of the criticism, and it was incredibly heavy, that happened at the time, the Channel really didn't want, didn't want to do much more with the story, and also those that were in decision making capacities at the time have all left. Then there is probably one or two people at the Channel who are even aware of the importance of the film, and it, as I believe, is in the vault at Channel Ten here in Melbourne, for want of a sponsor, because it would probably take about another hundred thousand dollars to take the film to, through to its logical conclusion through scientific testing, and that's a lot of money.

CREED: You're listening to 2CN and I'm talking to journalist Quentin Fogarty this morning. Quentin, did you accept when you did the story that you would attract so much personal criticism?

FOGARTY: No, not at all. I believe I was pretty naive really, on reflection, but I wouldn't have made the claims or come forward with the story unless I believed it was important and that it was different. Many people seem to forget that on board that aircraft were two experienced pilots, one had been flying up and down that coast for twenty-four years, and they were acting as a filtering service for us. They knew conventional light sources in the area; now they were amazed and impressed by what they were seeing, and also with the backup on radar, so, you know, I didn't expect to get quite the amount of flak that I did cop, and in spite of the fact that a scientific investigation has proved that all the conventional explanations fail, I continue to get the flak, and that annoys me now probably more than anything, it doesn't really upset me, it used to upset me dreadfully, now I just get frustrated with people.

CREED: What effects did, did the story have on your personal life?

FOGARTY: Pretty traumatic. It put as I say in the book, after, about a day after this happened, I admitted myself to a private hospital suffering from quote-unquote nervous exhaustion; that was the end result of hassles with the Channel, various people, hassles over the copyright of the film and the fact that I hadn't slept for fifty hours, and there had been a couple of death threats which all sort of culminated in this old body and soul saying it had enough for awhile. And so, that was a pretty frightening experience, and then, when I got out of hospital of course I was sort of totally obsessed with the story, and my wife really just about after a couple of months had

ACUFOS BIBLIOGRAPHY SERVICE: MYSTERIES OF THE AIR & SEAPART TWO: THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE (by) John PrytzCompiler's Note: See "Part One", March/April 1983 - p.12.Bermuda Triangle - Bibliographies

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TRANSCRIPTION FROM: THE THREE CREED SHOW (continued from page 10.)

FOGARTY (cont.): just about had enough of this whole thing. And it did put enormous strains on my marriage and on family life, as it did with other people on board the aircraft. Without naming people, two marriages have collapsed through the sort of obsessions of people connected with the story, and that was one person on the plane and the other person was just (???) connected with the story at a later date. So, you know it's been traumatic, it's been exciting, it's been frustrating, it's been all of those things I suppose.

CREED: Was it hard to write the book because of those reasons?

FOGARTY: Parts of the book were extremely easy to write, just recording things as they happened, but writing about personal traumas; very difficult, especially to describe, just to sit down and try and write how you had a breakdown is extremely difficult; to write about people who are alive and well, to write about your own wife, to write about friends and enemies so to speak, it is extremely difficult. Obviously the book won't (???).

CREED: Do you (???) sometimes you had never seen the light?

FOGARTY: Well it's a question I'm often asked. There are many times when I really wish that I hadn't seen them, but I'm also a realist in the sense that I did see them; I'm a part of the story that happened; the story will never leave me, I know, I realise that now, I mean UFO cases of forty years ago are still being discussed; this is now rated as sort of one of the tops in the world, so it will probably be discussed for the rest of my lifetime, so I've had some regrets, but I can't live in the past, I've got to live with it now, I don't intend to run away from it, it's not a total obsession anymore, it's a major interest in an obvious way, but I'll stick with it.

CREED: Quentin Fogarty, I hope you do. Thank you for talking to me this morning.

FOGARTY: Thank you.

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Note: (???) is a substitution for any unintelligible word or words.